

5 September 1952

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Personal and Confidential



For: Director of Central Intelligence

Dear General,

Knowing that you receive periodic reports on the state of my health from the M.D.'s, I feel constrained to give you a report from the individual concerned. I feel considerably stronger in every respect, and am now sitting up a good period each day and starting to read. The doctors, in their restrained way, are quite encouraging in that they speak of my getting into a wheel chair at quite an early date. Of course, from the wheel chair I will graduate to crutches as soon as my arm and shoulder muscles are strong enough to hold me. I know I am foolish to try and predict the future, but I feel more or less that I should be getting around in a wheel chair by the end of September and probably graduate to an outpatient status by November. I might also add that I'm quite hopeful that I will get back the full use of my legs, particularly inasmuch as I can feel some muscles and get some motion out of my legs already. As you may know, Dr. Howard Rusk came down from New York to take a look at me. He urged that at not too late a date, or at least when possible, that I return to work even if in a wheel chair and take outpatient treatment here. I believe that he feels quite strongly that occupational therapy goes hand and glove with physical therapy. I'm sure he would feel even more strongly about this if he knew how thoroughly engrossed I am in my occupation. I remember that you said when you visited here that you thought you'd be spared of memoranda and letters from me at least for the time being, so I'll make this brief. However, I do have one request to make.

You are aware that my secretary, [redacted], comes out each day so that I can write letters and can be generally apprised of what's going on. I have found this a tremendous stimulant to my morale and good spirit, as have the visits from the various people working in the DD/P complex. I can assure you that I do not fret or worry over office problems, but in the many hours of awakened thought that I have I enjoy mulling them over and giving thought as to future possibilities. I have several times suggested that I would like to see the DD/P daily log to keep currently apprised and would greatly appreciate it if [redacted] could bring this out each day.

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Strictly off the record and between ourselves, I plan to put down on paper a few thoughts as to future action and policy. This may not amount to a hill of beans but will at least give me a good mental exercise at this time and flatter that part of my ego which contends that I can write.

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I hope that you're not working too hard and trust that everything is going well. I can assure you that I can't wait to get back, but also that I will take every precaution to regain fully my health.

As always,



Lyman Kirkpatrick

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